

207 McCoy Street(House)  
Jefferson Ashby Redevelopment Area  
Americus  
Sumter County  
Georgia

HABS No. GA-2287

HABS  
GA  
131-AMER,  
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey  
National Park Service  
Southeast Region  
Department of the Interior  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

207 McCoy Street (House)

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Location: 207 McCoy Street, Americus, Sumter County Georgia

Significance: Example of a cottage-style house typical of residential houses of the area ca. 1920.

Description: This gabled ell cottage has a newer porch added in the ell and a lean-to addition across the rear. The roof is metal standing seam with a simply corbelled chimney. There are two types of wood siding and a mixture of new windows. There is one 8/8 window adjacent to the front door.

History: According to the 1912 Sanborn Fire Maps, 207 McCoy was 108 McCoy under the old numbering system of the City of Americus. The genesis of 207 McCoy dates back to 1869 when M.F. and J.T. Turner sold the property to George B. Warren. Since then this property was conveyed, bought, or sold until the current owner Mattie Ruth Williams resides there. This historic cottage will be demolished and another house reconstructed due to dilapidated conditions of the house.

This house was located in the McCoy Hill neighborhood, encompassing Academy, McCoy, Poplar, Winn, Jefferson, and Ashby streets. It was originally the residential property of a prominent antebellum attorney and Confederate general, Henry Kent McCay. The modern misspelling results from the name's pronunciation not matching its own spelling.

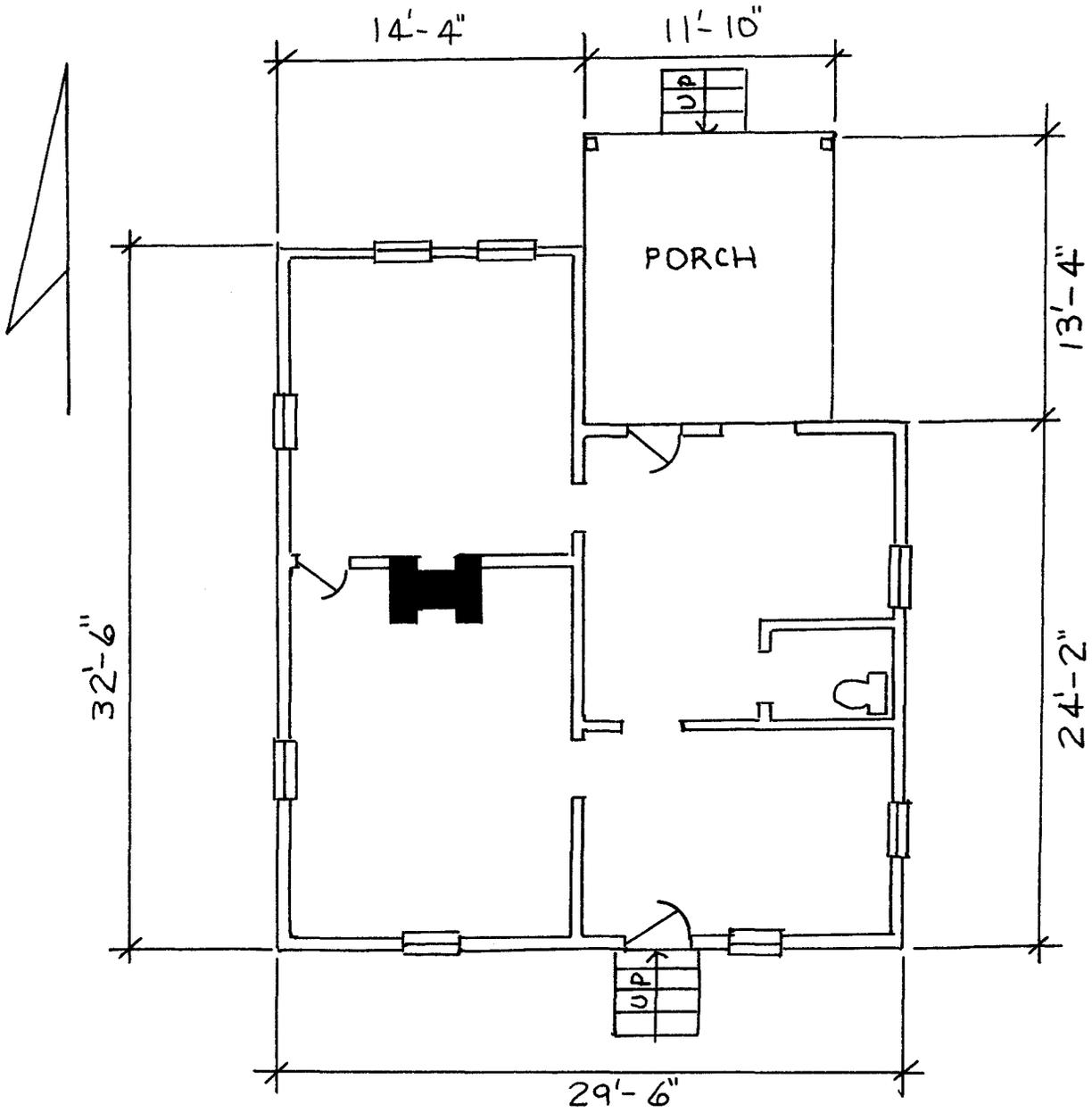
During the Reconstruction Era in the 1870's the site was used for public executions even as freedmen were establishing a black residential neighborhood in the immediate vicinity.

After the destruction of the old McCay home in the early 1880's, the site became the location of the city's first public school for blacks, McCoy Hill School, Built in 1884. With the earlier addition of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in 1882, the neighborhood boasted the residences of many of the black community's professional class. For example, two of the city's preeminent black educators, Professors George W.F. Philips and Alfred S. Staley, were homeowners there.

For almost 130 years the McCoy Hill neighborhood has nurtured generations of Americus' black citizenry.

Sources: Sumter County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book P (1869), p. 516; Deed Book 15 (1931), p. 506; Deed Book 87 (1935), p. 276; Deed Book 70 (1963), p.206 & 207; Deed Book 160 (1977), p. 663.  
Sanborn Fire Maps (1912).  
1912 Americus City Directory.

Historian: Alan Anderson, Sumter Historic Preservation Society Historian and Archivist  
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